

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-15, 30-44, 59-73, 88, 90 and 92 are pending. Claims 16-29, 45-58, 74-87, 89, 91, and 93 were previously cancelled. Claims 38 and 67 are herein amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as shown.

1. (original) A method for preparing a multi-mail message for transmission over a network, comprising:

receiving data comprising textual content of said message;

creating one or more multimedia components associated with said message,

wherein said multimedia component represents a likeness of a sender; and

synthesizing said multimedia components with said textual content.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia component comprises audio information.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia component comprises image information.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the image information may be static or dynamic.

5. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of sounds similar to the user's voice speaking the words of the textual content of the message.

6. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of sounds similar to a generic voice sample.

7. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of any stored sound.

8. (original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the synthesis of the multimedia component containing audio information further comprises:

parsing the audio information into sentences and for voice modulation controls;

assigning voice modulation to audio information;

sequencing phoneme and modulation information; and

translating said phoneme sequence into a sound component sequence.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the synthesis of the image multimedia component further comprises:

identifying speech movement image feature; and

generating frames representing movement of said image features.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia component comprises audio information and image information.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the synthesis of the audio and image multimedia components further comprises:

composing a phoneme sequence;

composing a mouth frame time sequence which matches the phoneme time sequence;

composing speech movement image frame sequence; and

combining the image and phoneme sequences.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

~~varying~~ changing one or more of said components to convey one or more senses of said message content.

13. (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the senses of said message content correspond to one or more sender emotions associated with said message.

14. (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the sender emotions are conveyed by manipulating one or more said image components.

15. (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the sender emotions are conveyed by manipulating one or more said audio components.

16-29. (cancelled)

36 30. (original) A system for preparing a multi-mail message for transmission over a network, comprising:

means for receiving data comprising textual content of said message;

means for creating one or more multimedia components associated with said message, wherein said multimedia component represents a likeness of a sender; and

means for synthesizing said multimedia components with said textual content.

31. (original) The system according to claim 30, wherein the multimedia component comprises audio information.

32. (original) The system according to claim 30, wherein the multimedia component comprises image information.

33. (original) The system according to claim 32, wherein the image information may be static or dynamic.

34. (original) The system according to claim 31, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of sounds similar to the user's voice.

35. (original) The system according to claim 31, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of sounds similar to a generic voice sample.

36. (original) The system according to claim 31, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of any stored sound.

37. (original) The system according to claim 31 wherein the synthesis of the multimedia component containing audio information further comprises:

means for parsing the audio information into sentences and for voice modulation controls;

means for assigning voice modulation to audio information;

means for sequencing phoneme and modulation information; and

means for translating said phoneme sequence into a sound component sequence.

38. (currently amended) The system according to claim [39] 32, wherein the synthesis of the image multimedia component further comprises:

means for identifying speech movement image feature; and

means for generating frames representing movement of said image features.

39. (original) The system of claim 30, wherein the multimedia component comprises audio information and image information.

40. (original) The system according to claim 39, wherein the synthesis of the audio and image multimedia components further comprises:

means for composing a phoneme sequence;

means for composing a mouth frame time sequence which matches the phoneme time sequence;

means for composing speech movement image frame sequence; and

means for combining the image and phoneme sequences.

41. (currently amended) The system according to claim 39, further comprising:

means for ~~varying~~ changing one or more of said components to convey one or more senses of said message content.

42. (original) The system according to claim 41, wherein the senses of said message content correspond to one or more sender emotions associated with said message.

43. (original) The system according to claim 42, wherein the sender emotions are conveyed by manipulating one or more said image components.

44. (original) The system according to claim 42, wherein the sender emotions are conveyed by manipulating one or more said audio components.

45-58. (cancelled)

59. (original) A system for preparing a multi-mail message for transmission over a network, comprising:

a database for receiving data comprising textual content of said message; and

a central processing unit configured for creating one or more multimedia components associated with said message, wherein said multimedia component represents a likeness of a sender, and for synthesizing said multimedia components with said textual content.

60. (original) The system according to claim 59, wherein the multimedia component comprises audio information.

61. (original) The system according to claim 59, wherein the multimedia component comprises image information.

62. (original) The system according to claim 61, wherein the image information may be static or dynamic.

63. (original) The system according to claim 60, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of sounds similar to the user's voice.

64. (original) The system according to claim 60, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of sounds similar to a generic voice sample.

65. (original) The system according to claim 60, wherein the audio component comprises voice data that enables the generation of any stored sound.

66. (original) The system according to claim 60 wherein the central processing unit is further configured for parsing the audio information into sentences and for voice modulation controls, for assigning voice modulation to audio information, for sequencing phoneme and modulation information, and for translating said phoneme sequence into a sound component sequence.

67. (currently amended) The system according to claim [60] 61, wherein the central processing unit is further configured for identifying speech movement image feature, and for generating frames representing movement of said image features.

68. (original) The system of claim 59, wherein the multimedia component comprises audio information and image information.

69. (original) The system according to claim 68, wherein the central processing unit is further configured for composing a phoneme sequence, for composing a mouth frame time sequence which matches the phoneme time sequence, for composing speech movement image frame sequence, and for combining the image and phoneme sequences.

70. (currently amended) The system according to claim 68, wherein the central processing unit is further configured for ~~varying~~ changing one or more of said components to convey one or more senses of said message content.

71. (original) The system according to claim 70, wherein the senses of said message content correspond to one or more sender emotions associated with said message.

72. (original) The system according to claim 71, wherein the central processing unit is further configured for manipulating one or more said image components to convey said sender emotions.

73. (original) The system according to claim 71, wherein the central processing unit is further configured for manipulating one or more said audio components to convey said sender emotions.

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74-87. (cancelled)

88. (original) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for preparing a multi-mail message for transmission over a network, comprising:

code to receive data comprising textual content of said message;

code to create one or more multimedia components associated with said message,

wherein said multimedia component represents a likeness of a sender; and

code to synthesize said multimedia components with said textual content.

89. (cancelled)

90. (original) A programmed computer for preparing a multi-mail message for transmission over a network, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in memory, wherein the
program code includes:

code to receive data comprising textual content of said message;

code to create one or more multimedia components associated with said
message, wherein said multimedia component represents a likeness of a sender; and

code to synthesize said multimedia components with said textual content.

91. (cancelled)

92. (original) A computer readable medium having computer executable software code
stored thereon, the code for preparing a multi-mail message for transmission over a network,
comprising:

code to receive data comprising textual content of said message;

code to create one or more multimedia components associated with said message,
wherein said multimedia component represents a likeness of a sender; and

code to synthesize said multimedia components with said textual content.

93. (cancelled)
